



Economics of Regulating Amalgam Restorations

Howard Bailit, DMD, PhD
University of Connecticut



Background

- Investigators
 - T Beazoglou, S Eklund
 - D Heffley, J Meiers, J Brown
- Sponsors
 - California Dental Association
 - American Dental Association



Objectives

- Estimate Financial Impact of Banning Use of Amalgam Restorations
 - Children
 - Children and women of childbearing age
 - Entire population

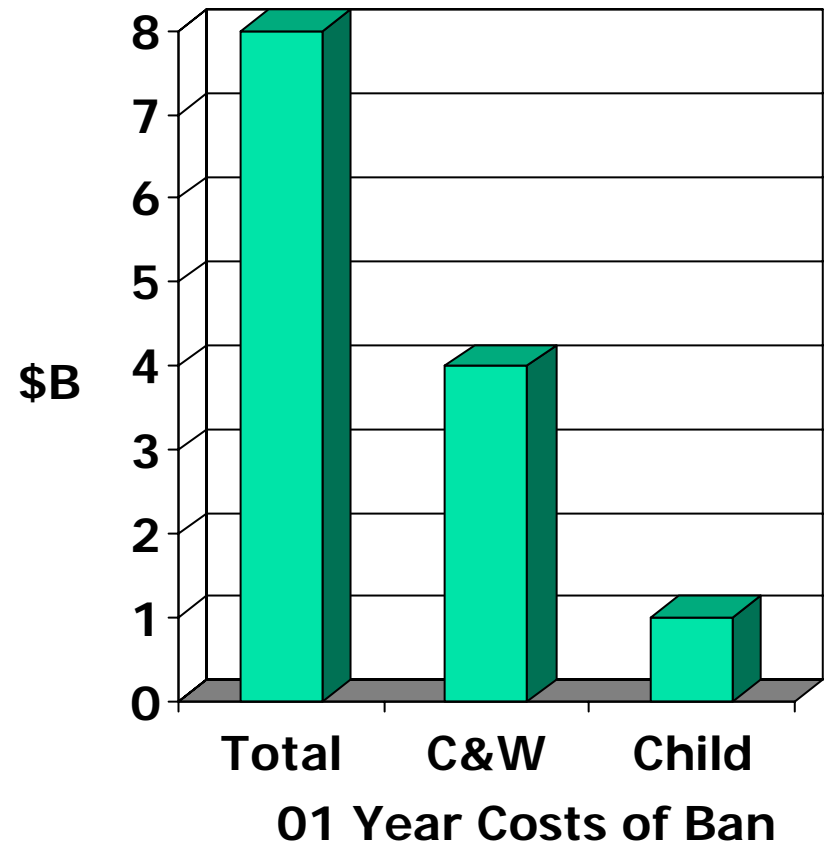


Methods

- Data
 - Delta Dental (Michigan) Claims, 1992-2004
 - ADA Survey Fees and Services Rendered
 - Price elasticity dental services
- Analyses
 - Rate change amalgams and fees
 - Per capita amalgams and national estimates
 - Impact ban for subgroups, 2005-20

Results

- Amalgam Trends
 - Percent restorations
 - Rate of decline
- Ban Impact
 - Fee increase
 - Fewer restorations
 - Increased costs
 - Year 1
 - Year 20





Results

- Unmeasured Impact
 - Announcement effect
 - Oral health
 - pain
 - missing teeth
 - disability
- Dentist Incomes



Conclusions

- Amalgam Ban:
 - Increase dental expenditures
 - Reduce access and oral health
- No Evidence Amalgams Cause Ill-Health
- Recommendation:

Do Not Ban Use of Amalgams